

Amendments to the Claims

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Claims 1- 20 cancelled.

21. (New) A method of managing system components within a controlled environment, comprising:

- detecting an occurrence of a commencement parameter;
- determining a region within the controlled environment;
- identifying a plurality of system components located within the region;
- accessing a sequence of component-specific commands associated with the identified system components;
- sending the sequence to the identified system components; and
- executing each component-specific command from the sequence to control a corresponding identified system component upon receipt of the component-specific command at the corresponding identified system component.

22. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein said detecting comprises:
detecting a day and/or time, wherein the day and/or time is specified as the commencement parameter.

23. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein said detecting comprises:
detecting an operating state of a system component from the plurality of
system components, wherein the operating state is specified as the commencement
parameter.
24. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein said detecting comprises:
detecting a presence of a subject within a predetermined region, wherein
the detected presence is specified as the commencement parameter.
25. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein said detecting comprises:
detecting an altered state of a system component from the plurality of
system components, wherein the altered state is specified as the commencement
parameter.
26. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein said detecting comprises:
detecting a request to execute a generic sequence of commands for
controlling an operation and/or function of one or more types of system components,
wherein the generic sequence excludes identification of a particular system component,
wherein the detected request is specified as the commencement parameter.
27. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein said determining comprises:
positioning a subject within the controlled environment to determine the
region.

28. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein said determining comprises:
tracking and/or monitoring movement of a system component throughout
the controlled environment; and
determining the region from the current location of the moving system
component.
29. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein said determining comprises:
determining the region from a current location of a system component
from the plurality of system components.
30. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein said determining comprises:
determining the region from a user input, wherein the user input specifies
the region.
31. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein said identifying comprises:
polling system components within the controlled environment to identify
the plurality of system components located within the region.
32. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein said identifying comprises:
receiving a request to control a type of system component, wherein the
request excludes identification of a particular system component; and
identifying the plurality of system components located within the region
that matches the type of system component specified in the request.

33. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein said accessing comprises:
accessing a generic sequence of commands for controlling an operation
and/or function of one or more types of system components, wherein the generic
sequence excludes identification of a particular system component; and
translating the generic sequence into the sequence of component-specific
commands associated with the identified system components, wherein the identified
components match the one or more types of system components.
34. (New) The method of claim 21, further comprising:
validating permission to control each system component prior to
implementing said sending step.
35. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein said sending comprises:
sending the sequence over a wireless medium.
36. (New) A method of managing system components within a controlled
environment having a plurality of regions, comprising:
detecting an occurrence of a commencement parameter;
accessing a generic sequence of commands for controlling an operation
and/or a function of one or more types of system components, wherein the generic
sequence excludes identification of a particular system component;
determining a current location of a subject within the controlled
environment to select a region that includes the current location;

identifying a plurality of system components located within the selected region that matches one or more types of system components specified in the generic sequence;

translating the generic sequence into a sequence of component-specific commands for controlling an operation and/or a function of the identified system components;

sending the sequence of component-specific commands to the identified system components; and

executing each component-specific command from the sequence to control a corresponding identified system component upon receipt of the component-specific command at the corresponding identified system component.

37. (New) A method of managing system components within a controlled environment, comprising:

enabling creation of a generic sequence of commands for controlling an operation and/or a function of one or more types of system components, wherein the generic sequence excludes identification of a particular system component;

associating the sequence with an occurrence of a commencement parameter;

detecting the occurrence of the commencement parameter;

determining a region within the controlled environment;

identifying the system components located within the region that matches one or more types of system components specified in the generic sequence;

translating the generic sequence into a sequence of component-specific commands that, when executed, control an operation and/or a function of the identified system components;

sending the sequence of component-specific commands to the identified system components; and

executing each component-specific command to control a corresponding identified system component upon receipt of the component-specific command at the corresponding identified system component.

38. (New) The method of claim 37, wherein said enabling comprises:
receiving first user input that specifies one or more types of system components;

receiving second user input that specifies an operation or a function that the one or more types of system components are configured to perform; and

processing the first user input and the second user input to create the generic sequence of commands.

39. (New) The method of claim 38, wherein said enabling comprises:
receiving third user input that specifies a commencement parameter for initiating activation of the generic sequence of commands.

40. (New) The method of claim 37, wherein said enabling comprises:
detecting a presence of a system component within the controlled environment;

recalling at least one predefined sequence of commands for controlling an operation and/or function of a type of system component matching the detected system component; and

creating the generic sequence of commands, wherein the detected system component is associated with the generic sequence as a candidate for being the identified system component during a subsequent execution of the identifying step.

41. (New) The method of claim 37, wherein said detecting comprises:
detecting a day and/or time, wherein the day and/or time is specified as the commencement parameter.

42. (New) The method of claim 37, wherein said detecting comprises:
detecting an operating state of a system component from the plurality of system components, wherein the operating state is specified as the commencement parameter.

43. (New) A portable controller for interacting with a plurality of system components within a controlled environment, comprising;
a user interface configured to create or store a generic sequence of commands for controlling an operation and/or a function of one or more types of system components, wherein the generic sequence excludes identification of a particular system component, and wherein the generic sequence is associated with a commencement parameter;

first processing means for determining a region within the controlled environment and identifying one or more system components within the region that matches one or more types of system components specified in the generic sequence;

second processing means for translating the generic sequence into a sequence of component-specific commands that, when executed, control an operation and/or a function of the identified one or more system components; and

transmitting means for sending to the identified one or more system components a component-specific command to control the operations and/or functions of a receiving system component in response to the occurrence of the commencement parameter.

44. (New) A system for managing a plurality of system components within a controlled environment, comprising:

a control center for controlling operations and/or functions of the plurality of system components, and

a portable controller for interacting with the control center,

wherein the portable controller is operable to configure a generic sequence of commands for controlling an operation and/or a function of one or more types of system components, wherein the generic sequence excludes identification of a particular system component, and wherein the generic sequence is associated with a commencement parameter,

wherein the control center is operable to translate the generic sequence into a sequence of component-specific commands that, when executed, control one or

more of the plurality of system components located within a vicinity of the portable controller as determined by input received from the portable controller, and

wherein the control center is operable to store the generic sequence of commands, and send the sequence of component-specific commands to one or more of the plurality of system components in response to an occurrence of the commencement parameter.

45. (New) The system of claim 44, further comprising:
positioning means for tracking and/or monitoring a location or movement of the portable controller,

wherein the portable controller is operable to interact with the positioning means, and

wherein the control center is operable to send the sequence of component-specific commands to one or more of the plurality of system components located within a vicinity of the portable controller as determined by the positioning means.

46. (New) A computer program product comprising a computer useable medium having computer readable program code functions embedded in the medium for causing a computer to manage a system of components within a controlled environment, comprising:

a first computer readable program code function that causes the computer to detect an occurrence of a commencement parameter;

a second computer readable program code function that causes the computer to access a generic sequence of commands for controlling an operation and/or a function of one or more types of system components, wherein the generic sequence

excludes identification of a particular system component, and wherein the generic sequence is associated with the commencement parameter;

a third computer readable program code function that causes the computer to determine a region within the controlled environment;

a fourth computer readable program code function that causes the computer to identify one or more system components within the region that matches one or more types of system components specified in the generic sequence; and

a fifth computer readable program code function that causes the computer to translate the generic sequence into a sequence of component-specific commands that, when executed, control an operation and/or a function of the identified one or more system components.

47. (New) The computer program product according to claim 46, wherein the first computer readable program code function comprises:

computer readable program code that causes the computer to detect a day and/or time, wherein the day and/or time is specified as the commencement parameter.

48. (New) The computer program product according to claim 46, wherein the first computer readable program code function comprises:

computer readable program code that causes the computer to detect an operating state of a system component from the plurality of system components, wherein the operating state is specified as the commencement parameter.